

**PAROLEE SERVICES NETWORK
REGIONAL MEETING
Kern County Mental Health
3300 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield
January 14, 2009**

PRESENT:

Ramona Elizondo – KCMH Gate Team
Chris Willis – WestCare
Elvira Diaz – ADP
Kurt Klemencic – ADP
Cindy Coe – KCMH SA Admin

Felicia Skaggs – KCMH Gate Team
Oscar Acosta – WestCare
Carol Cole – KCMH SA Admin
Lily Alvarez – KCMH SA Admin

SUMMARY MINUTES:

1. **Introductions:** Accomplished. Ms. Diaz confirmed that CDCR staff were not able to attend due to state budget issues.
2. **Approval of October 8, 2008 meeting minutes:** Mr. Klemencic asked that the last sentence of the second paragraph of item 4 D be clarified to avoid confusion regarding whether ADP is able to change allocations. A clearer statement would be that ADP staff indicated a desire to review the criteria which might be used if new funding were made available.

Motions to approve minutes by Klemencic / Skaggs to approve with noted clarification;
approved all ayes.

3. **Follow-up items:**
 - A. Page 1, Item 3 B: *Underutilization of slots in Lake Isabella and Ridgecrest.* Ms. Alvarez reported that this continues to be a problem, and may necessitate the shift of funding to metro Bakersfield to purchase other services. Ms. Diaz reminded that if a change is made, Ms. Alvarez will need to submit an amended Work Plan budget page reflecting the change.
 - B. Page 2, Item 3 D: *Ms. Diaz questioned whether Kern County would be interested in participating in a four-hour session with other region counties.* Ms. Diaz and Mr. Klemencic reported they are still planning to have a regional administrators meeting and hope to combine the two meetings, but will need to wait until state budget issues are resolved. They will also need to coordinate with DARS staff.



- C. Page 3, Item 5 A: *Ms. Nules will send Ms. Alvarez a list of CDCR providers for Kern County.* Ms. Alvarez reported that she had received the list. Mr. Klemencic questioned whether there continued to be a problem with parolee sex offender housing; Ms. Alvarez reported there have been no known recent events, but agreed to continue to monitor the issue.
- D. Members discussed at length problems Kern County is experiencing with the PSN, CDCR, and CalOMS databases. Problems include lost data, provider identification numbers, PSN coding, running accurate reports, and the unreliability of data in the systems. Ms. Cole and Ms. Skaggs agreed to submit a one-page problem statement to Mr. Klemencic to begin to help resolve the problems. It appears that identified problems are not exclusive to the PSN data. Ms. Alvarez indicated that the data that Kern County has not been able to submit, April through December 2008, is available as raw data; the county is unable to absorb the cost of staff time to re-enter and cross-check the data. Mr. Klemencic agreed that paper forms are acceptable due to the problems.

4. State ADP Issues:

- A. Mr. Klemencic reported that it is still unknown what will happen with the State budget, but it is hoped PSN stay at the same level or expand. Legislators are considering a 5¢ per drink tax that would help fund General Fund programs, including PSN.
- B. Mr. Klemencic announced that ADP has created a consent form to be used for posting client success stories on the PSN webpage. The forms can be requested by e-mailing Mr. Klemencic. All providers are encouraged to submit stories or events for the webpage.

5. State CDCR Issues: Not present.

6. Kern County Parole Issues: Not present.

7. Provider Issues:

- A. WestCare: Mr. Acosta reported they have 4 PSN residential beds and 2 are filled, one should be filled tomorrow, and one on Friday. Mr. Acosta also reported that they have seen an increase in the number of clients who are coming in under the influence. Members discussed the limited detox services that are available in Kern County; providers report parole agents typically uses the jail facility to detox, and two residential providers detox. Ms. Alvarez reported she understood that CDCR is purchasing, from Lerdo Jail, beds specifically for detox; Mr. Willis indicated that is for the ICDTP.

Mr. Willis reported that parole agents typically re-incarcerate a client for one dirty test, which goes against a recovery philosophy. He would also like agents to be more involved in getting clients to group; they typically display indifference. Ms. Alvarez agreed to follow up with Rodney Armstrong, the local parole administrator.

- B. Mental Health Gate Team: Ms. Skaggs and Ms. Elizondo had no additional issues.
- C. College Community Services: Not present.

8. Mental Health Issues:

- A. Paperless meeting notification: Ms. Alvarez announced that, in order to preserve resources, meeting notifications will be made through e-mail and hard copies will not be mailed. Copies of agendas and minutes would still be available at meetings.
 - B. Family strengthening mini grants: Ms. Alvarez reported that the Substance Abuse System of Care issued mini grants to five substance abuse contract providers to provide ancillary services aimed at families. WestCare is the recipient of two of the mini grants, one for their outpatient program and one for their residential program.
- 9.** Ms. Diaz announced that she would be leaving ADP at the end of January. She will be joining CDCR and work with DARS in the In Custody Drug Treatment Program.
- 10.** Ms. Alvarez asked that, in her new position, if Ms. Diaz identifies training available on providing services to parolees she forward information; Ms. Diaz agreed. Ms. Alvarez felt that the training will be needed in light of the likely early release of thousands of parolees to the area.
- 11.** Next meeting **April 8, 2009**, at Kern County Mental Health Administration.

LA:cc

Attachments to original minutes:
None